

Approved For Release 2000/05/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002400410

~~INFORMATION~~ ~~SECRET~~

COUNTRY Venezuela

SUBJECT Lt. Col. Roberto Gaganova's Stand on Dissident
Labor Elements

PLACE
ACQUIRED

DATE OF INFO
25X1X6

DATE DISTR. 2 Mar 1949

NO. OF PAGES 1

NO. OF ENCLS.
LISTED BELOW:

SUPPLEMENT TO
REPORT NO.

RETURN TO CIA LIBRARY

1. Lt. Col. Roberto Casanova, Commandant of the Zulia Military District of Venezuela, is determined to suppress dissident elements and maintain peace and order in his area, using force if necessary. He stated that, if the workers in the oil fields were to stage another walkout or demonstration similar to the one of 17 January 1949, he was prepared to bring in soldiers from other states who would annihilate the local workers. He feels that the time has come to shoot down militant elements as an object lesson to the masses and as a means of fostering respect for the authority of the military and government.* He has issued standing orders to shoot any unauthorized person found in the vicinity of an oil well or strategic equipment. He stated that the governor and certain other recently appointed civil officials are too lax and that he is constantly pushing them to exert more authority and firmness in their dealings with recalcitrant elements.
2. Casanova was recently much disturbed over a mimeographed declaration which had been issued and distributed in the Lake Maracaibo oil fields by the Fedepetrol. He arrested two of its signatories, Andres Hernandez and Luis Tovar, but was forced to release them at the special cabled request of higher authority in Caracas. He stated that had he had his way he would have kept them permanently incarcerated.
3. With reference to the government search for the clandestine radios operating in that area, Casanova reported that a second portable broadcast set has recently been confiscated in the Maracaibo metropolitan area.** The colonel stated that the one radio still at large has not been heard for some time, but that the army is waiting for it to resume broadcasting in order to apprehend it. He explained that four individuals operating these clandestine sets were taken prisoner and sent to the military prison at San Juan de los Morros, south of Maracay. They were known Accion Democratica members.
4. In speaking of the recent wave of military dictatorships in Latin America, Casanova stated that it was time that these countries took a firm and resolute stand against Communism. He lamented the fact that his country had not severed diplomatic relations with the Soviet Union, for the Russians are continuing to disseminate propaganda from their diplomatic and cultural headquarters in Caracas. He expressed the desire to see the United States declare open war against Communism and energetically prosecute its eradication in the hemisphere.

in which it was stated that the police had found one clandestine set in Maracaibo and another in Cabimas.

CLASSIFICATION

~~CONFIDENTIAL~~

[illegible]

This document is hereby regraded to
CONFIDENTIAL in accordance with the
letter of 16 October 1978 from the
Director of Central Intelligence to the
Archivist of the United States.

Next Review Date: 2008

Document No. 04
NO CHANGE in Class. ☐
RECLASSIFIED
Class. CHANGED TO: TS S
Date Memo, 4 Apr 77
Auth: DDA REG. 77/1765
0045759680041000529

~~SECRET~~

Approved For Release 2000/05/18 : CIA-RDP82-00457R002400410005-9